



COUNTY BOROUGH OF BURY.

REPORT

ON THE

Medical Inspection of School Children,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

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SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER, MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
AND
CHIEF TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

CLOUGH STREET, BURY,

May 8th, 1920.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee,
County Borough of Bury.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the Medical Inspection and Treatment of School Children during the year ended December 31st, 1919.

During the first four months of the year, owing to the continued absence of the Assistant Medical Officer of Health on service, the groups of children inspected were the same as in the previous year. On his return, however, the full service was restored and the examination of the intermediate group of children resumed.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Director of Education and his staff, the Head Teachers of the various schools, the clerical staff of the Health Department, and to the School Nurse (Miss L. H. Rishton) for the assistance they have given me, and to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and kind sympathy.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. GRANVILLE BUCKLEY

County Borough of Bury.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

I.—METHODS.

The methods adopted during 1919 were similar to those detailed in previous Reports, and need not be repeated here.

The groups inspected at the beginning of the year were "Entrants," "Leavers," and "Specials," but subsequently to the demobilisation of the Assistant Medical Officer in April, an "Intermediate Group" was added. The groups inspected, therefore, are as follows :—

1. "Entrants."
2. "Intermediates," aged 8 (in 14 schools only).
3. "Leavers."
4. "Specials."

II.—RESULTS.

Number of Visits to Schools and Departments.

Number of visits for Medical Inspection	134
,, ,, other purposes...	72
Total	206

Number of Examinations made during the year. The total number of examinations made during 1919 was 3,819, and was made up as follows :—

Routine	{ "Entrants"	892
	"Intermediates" (aged 8)	518
Inspection	"Leavers" (aged 12)	752
	"Specials"	126
Re-Inspection	{ New Cases	480
	Old Cases	329
	Other Cases examined at Office	722
		3819

At the routine inspections 324 entrants, 22 intermediates, and 62 leavers were absent.

In addition to the above, a large number of children were examined for dirty and verminous conditions, signs of infectious disease, &c.

In Table I, at the end of the Report will be found particulars as to the age and sex of the children inspected, while Table II, shows their physical condition.

The attendance of parents present at the inspections was as follows :—

" Entrants "	... ... ... ...	36.21 per cent.
" Intermediates "	... ... ... ...	21.23 "
" Leavers "	... ... ... ...	12.10 "

Objections to the examination of their children were made by three parents.

Special Cases.

When the Medical Officer visits a school for the purpose of Medical Inspection, advantage is taken of the opportunity to examine such children (not falling into either of the three classes, "Entrants," "Intermediates," or "Leavers") as have been noticed by the teachers to be suffering from some palpable disease or defect. The total number of such children brought to the notice of the Medical Officer during the year was 126, an increase of 56 upon the number examined in 1918. A summary of the diseases and defects discovered will be found in Table II, at the end of the Report.

Miscellaneous Examinations.

These consist of children examined at the office and comprise such minor ailments as dirty and verminous conditions, ring-worm, impetigo, &c. The majority of these children attend on Saturday mornings, but they may also attend on any weekday during the hours at which the School Clinic is open.

During the year 722 examinations have been made of 220 children :—

	No. of Children Affected.	No. of Examinations.
Dirty and verminous conditions	84	266
Skin Diseases...	79	318
Eye Diseases and Defects	21	65
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary...	2	7
,, other forms	5	9
Nose and Throat	1	1
Heart and Circulation	1	1
Nervous System...	3	4
Ear Diseases...	6	19
Various diseases and defects...	18	32

III.—TREATMENT.

The methods employed or available for the treatment of defects are as in former years, and have been fully detailed in previous reports. Owing to the strain on the resources of the local hospital considerable delay has arisen in obtaining treatment at that institution.

A clinic for the treatment of such minor ailments as Impetigo and other skin diseases, discharging ears, dirty and verminous conditions, &c., was opened at the Public Health Office in November.

Table IV. shows the number of defects treated during 1919.

Tuberculosis.—The following table gives particulars of school children, suffering from Tuberculosis, who have received Institutional Treatment during the year :—

Initials	Age	Institution	Admitted	Discharged	Length of Stay
R.J. 13	...	Bury Dispensary	Aug. 10/19.	Oct. 7/19	789 days
L.F. 12	...	Children's Sanatorium Southport	Nov. 18/17.	Undischarged	
T.J. 13	...	Ainsworth Sanatorium ...	Nov. 21/17.	Dec. 31/19	774 "
M.C. 10	...	Bury Dispensary	May 1/19.	April 25/19	521 "
R.A. 5	...	"	May 8/19.	Dec. 17/19	231 "
G.B. 9	...	"	June 2/19.	Aug. 4/19	88 "
A.D. 9	...	"	June 19/19.	July 2/19	31 "
L.W. 12	...	Bowdon Sanatorium	Dec. 6/19.	July 30/19	42 "
H.S. 8	...	"	Dec. 27/19.	Undischarged	
A.D. 9	...	Bury Dispensary	Dec. 17/19.	Dec. 31/19	5 "
				Undischarged	
				Dec. 31/19	15 "

Diseases of the Eye.—During the year 115 children were examined by the ophthalmic surgeon. Spectacles were prescribed in 110 cases, and of these 94 have obtained glasses.

In 10 cases the parents were considered too poor to pay for spectacles, and the cost was defrayed, wholly or in part, by the Local Authority.

Minor Ailments.—A clinic for the treatment of minor ailments was opened in November, 1919, and during the period to the end of December the following cases were treated:—

	No. of Children	No. of Attendances
Impetigo	11	95
Scabies	1	10
Dirty and Verminous... ...	7	44
Ear Discharge...	2	12
	—	—
	21	161
	—	—

IV.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 1919 the following cases of Infectious Disease occurring among school children were notified to the Medical Officer of Health:—

Enteric Fever	1
Scarlet Fever	18
Diphtheria	72
Erysipelas...	2
Measles	122
Chicken-Pox	39

Closure of Schools.—During the year the following schools have been closed on account of the prevalence of Infectious Disease among the scholars:—

School and Department	Period Closed.	Reason for Closure
All Saints', Infants	Mar. 11th to Mar. 21st	Influenza
" " "	Nov. 17th to Nov. 28th	Chickenpox
Brunswick, Infants'	Dec. 5th to Dec. 23rd	Measles
Chesham, Infants'	Dec. 1st to Dec. 23rd	Whooping Cough and Measles

School and Département.	Period Closed.	Reason for Closure.
Christian Church, Mixed ...	Mar. 10th to Mar. 21st	Influenza
Christian Church, Infants' ...	Mar. 10th to Mar. 21st	"
" " "	Dec. 11th to Dec. 23rd	Mumps and Whooping Cough
Clerke Street, Infants' ...	Mar. 6th to Mar. 21st	Influenza
East Ward Council, Infants' ...	Mar. 10th to Mar. 21st	"
Guardian Angels', Mixed ...	Mar. 3rd to Mar. 14th	"
Guardian Angels', Infants' ...	Mar. 3rd to Mar. 14th	"
St. Mark's, Mixed ...	Mar. 10th to Mar. 21st	"
St. Mark's, Infants' ...	Mar. 10th to Mar. 21st	"
" " "	Oct. 29th to Nov. 11th	Whooping Cough and Mumps
St. Paul's (Bell), Mixed ...	Mar. 3rd to Mar. 14th	Influenza
St. Paul's (Bell), Infants' ...	Mar. 3rd to Mar. 14th	"
" " "	Nov. 24th to Dec. 23rd	Mumps and Whooping Cough
St. Paul's (Hentley), Infants' ...	Mar. 10th to Mar. 21st	Influenza
St. Peter's, Infants' ...	Oct. 21st to Nov. 7th	Measles
St. Thomas's, Infants' ...	Dec. 9th to Dec. 23rd	Mumps
Walmersley, Infants' ...	Mar. 10th to Mar. 21st	Influenza
Warrh Fold, Infants' ...	Dec. 2nd to Dec. 23rd	Measles

Education (Provision of Meals) Act, 1906.

Under the above Act, it was found necessary to provide 1,181 meals to school children from December 4th to December 31st, inclusive.

SUMMARY of the Work of the SCHOOL NURSE during the year 1919.

379 visits have been paid to the various school departments. This number is made up as follows :—

134 visits with the Medical Officer to assist at the routine inspection.

245 visits for other purposes—examination of children for cleanliness, &c.

1,436 visits and re-visits have been made to the homes of dirty children and children found on Medical Inspection to be suffering from some disease or defect.

Visits were paid to all the schools for the purpose of giving instruction to the children, especially the girls, in personal cleanliness, the care of the hair, &c., and 10,765 children were inspected for cleanliness.

Twenty-one visits have been made to the Ophthalmic Surgeon's rooms to assist in the examination of children with defective vision, and in the case of the children examined by him (115) atropine has been introduced into the children's eyes by the nurse on the day previous to and again on the day of examination.

Note:—The following Tables, I., II., and IV., are prescribed by the Board of Education. It has not been possible this year to obtain the particulars required for Tables III. and V.

TABLE I. Number of Children Inspected 1st January, 1919, to 31st December, 1919.

A—"CODE" GROUPS.

Age.	ENTRANTS.				LEAVERS.				Grand Total.		
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.
Boys	82	118	175	45	7	427	205	344	34	—	375
Girls	73	139	186	59	8	465	253	337	40	—	377
Totals....	155	257	361	104	15	892	518	681	71	—	752

B.—GROUPS OTHER THAN "CODE."

Intermediate Group (other than 8 years).	Special Cases.	Re-EXAMINATIONS (i.e., No. of Children Re-Examined).	T	
			Boys	Girls
Boys	—	—	61	769
Girls	—	—	65	—
Totals.....	—	—	126	769

TABLE II.—Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1919.

DEFECTS OR DISEASE.	CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.
1	2.	3.	4.	5.
Malnutrition ...	4	16	1	..
Uncleanliness: Head ...	212	9	8	..
Body...	47	..	4	..
Skin:				
Ringworm, head...	2	..	..	..
Ringworm, body ...	2	..	..	..
Scabies ...	4	..	1	..
Impetigo ...	16	..	4	..
Other disease...	2	3	..	..
Eye:				
Defective Vision and Squint ...	229	8	66	..
External eye disease...	27	5	5	..
Ear:				
Defective hearing...	24	1	11	2
Ear disease ...	26	1	3	..
Teeth:				
Dental disease...	301	..	4	..
Nose and Throat:				
Enlarged Tonsils...	97	294	2	..
Adenoids...	105	267	4	..
Enlarged tonsils and Adenoids ...	33	35	1	..
Defective speech...	4	14	..	..
Heart and Circulation:				
Heart disease, organic ...	9	2	1	..
Heart disease, functional ...	3	17	..	..
Anæmia... Anæmia... Anæmia...	7	3	1	..
Lungs:				
Pulmonary tuberculosis—Definite ...	3	..	..	..
Suspected ...	5	7	1	2
Chronic bronchitis...	19	13	..	..
Other disease ...	..	3	..	..
Nervous System:				
Epilepsy...	..	..	..	..
Chorea...	1	..	..	..
Other disease ...	..	3	..	..
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis:				
Glands...	4	1	..	..
Bones and Joints ...	2	..	2	..
Other forms ...	..	3	..	..
Pickets ...	2	27	1	1
Deformities...	5	9	..	..
Other defects or diseases ...	9	7	3	2

TABLE IV.—Treatment of Defects of Children during 1919.